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JACK BROOKS, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN

One Hundredth Congress  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 9, 1987

The Honorable Charles A. Bowsher  
Comptroller General  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear General:

As you know, the Committee's oversight of major national security programs has uncovered serious questions regarding the effectiveness of some of these programs. We have found, for example, that due to a long history of chronic neglect and disrepair, many components of our Nation's nuclear command and control system are marginally effective at best and, in some cases, seriously outdated and obsolete. In my view, the haphazard consolidation of disparate program requirements, coupled with a lack of strong centralized leadership, contributed greatly to these deficiencies.

I am concerned that similar problems may exist in an area equally important to national security -- the Nation's ability to maintain data and voice telecommunications capabilities in the event of enemy attack, natural disaster, or terrorist activity. Under crisis or emergency situations, these capabilities are crucial in supporting our national security leadership and in ensuring continuity of government.

Considering these concerns, I request that GAO undertake a comprehensive review into all aspects of the national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications program. The review should include, but not be limited to, determining the following: (1) Are the program objectives clearly defined? (2) Has the necessary planning been performed? (3) Have responsibilities for developing and operating the system been clearly and specifically assigned? (4) Does adequate coordination occur among executive agencies and between the agencies, Congress and the private sector? and (5) Are the various elements of the program being effectively implemented and fully tested? Although I realize this is a major request, I would appreciate receiving a written report of GAO's findings, conclusions, and recommendations no later than February 1, 1988. Your continued support in this and other matters is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS  
Chairman

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 10, 1987

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

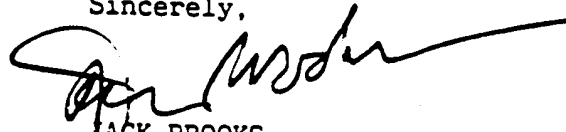
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I recently sent to Comptroller General Bowsher requesting a comprehensive review of the national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications program. You will note that I have asked GAO to make a full assessment of this program, including an evaluation of its effectiveness in supporting our national security leadership, and in ensuring continuity of government during crisis and emergency situations. I fully expect that the results of this work will be used in hearings before the Committee early next year.

To ensure that our review is thorough and complete, it is imperative that GAO be given access to all information regarding this program, including any information requiring "special access," in a timely and unobstructed manner. In this regard, I request that the Department give GAO and this Committee the assistance and support needed to successfully complete our work. Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS  
Chairman

Enclosure

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 10, 1987

The Honorable Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director, Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20472

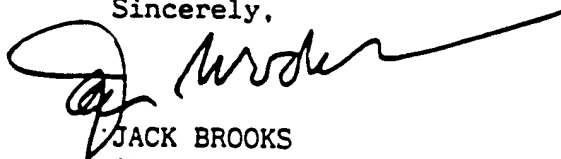
Dear Mr. Becton:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I recently sent to Comptroller General Bowsher requesting a comprehensive review of the national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications program. You will note that I have asked GAO to make a full assessment of this program, including an evaluation of its effectiveness in supporting our national security leadership, and in ensuring continuity of government during crisis and emergency situations. I fully expect that the results of this work will be used in hearings before the Committee early next year.

To ensure that our review is thorough and complete, it is imperative that GAO be given access to all information regarding this program, including any information requiring "special access," in a timely and unobstructed manner. In this regard, I request that the Agency give GAO and this Committee the assistance and support needed to successfully complete our work. Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS  
Chairman

Enclosure

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 10, 1987

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
National Security Council  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I recently sent to Comptroller General Bowsher requesting a comprehensive review of the national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications program. You will note that I have asked GAO to make a full assessment of this program, including an evaluation of its effectiveness in supporting our national security leadership, and in ensuring continuity of government during crisis and emergency situations. I fully expect that the results of this work will be used in hearings before the Committee early next year.

To ensure that our review is thorough and complete, it is imperative that GAO be given access to all information regarding this program, including any information requiring "special access," in a timely and unobstructed manner. In this regard, I request that the Council give GAO and this Committee the assistance and support needed to successfully complete our work. Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JACK BROOKS  
Chairman

Enclosure

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 10, 1987

The Honorable William R. Graham  
Science Advisor to the President  
Director, Office of Science and  
Technology Policy  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Graham:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I recently sent to Comptroller General Bowsher requesting a comprehensive review of the national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications program. You will note that I have asked GAO to make a full assessment of this program, including an evaluation of its effectiveness in supporting our national security leadership, and in ensuring continuity of government during crisis and emergency situations. I fully expect that the results of this work will be used in hearings before the Committee early next year.

To ensure that our review is thorough and complete, it is imperative that GAO be given access to all information regarding this program, including any information requiring "special access," in a timely and unobstructed manner. In this regard, I request that the OSTP give GAO and this Committee the assistance and support needed to successfully complete our work. Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS  
Chairman

Enclosure